



## St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### **Message from Miss Slingsby**

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some time with family and friends. It has been such a pleasure to welcome the children back to school this week. They have returned looking very smart in their uniforms and have made an excellent start to the year—already slipping straight back into school life, showing our Christian values in action, and working hard in their new classes.

Last year was a fantastic year for our school, with amazing results and lots to celebrate together. This year, I am excited to build on that success, and I know, by working together as a team, we can make our school the very best it can be. A key part of this is attendance: being in school every day really does make a difference to your child's learning, wellbeing, and progress. Thank you for supporting us with this important priority.

Although my role is split across two sites this year, I want to reassure you that I remain fully committed to our school family; please know that I'm still here whenever you need me. My open-door policy is still very much in place, and I am always available if you need to get in touch. Over the last seven years, one of the things I have valued most is building strong relationships with our families, and that will not change.

So, here's to another fantastic year ahead - filled with learning, fun, and working together to give our children the very best.

### **Parent Forum**

We would love to invite you to join our wonderful Parent Forum! Your thoughts, ideas and experiences are so important to us and really help shape the decisions we make. Our Parent Forum is a friendly, welcoming space where we come together to chat about how we can make our school community even better. We are always excited to hear fresh perspectives and new ideas from our families.

If you would like to get involved and be part of this lovely group, please email the office. Together, we can continue creating the very best learning environment for all our children.

### **Friends of St Michael with St Thomas Fundraising Group**

Our Friends of SMwST Group is dedicated to running fundraising activities to support our school.

The funds raised through this group will go towards enhancing the resources available to our pupils, such as new books, learning equipment, and the provision of additional clubs and visitors. These initiatives will help to enrich the curriculum and provide our pupils with even more engaging and valuable learning experiences.

While our dedicated staff do a fantastic job, we recognise that there is only so much they can do on their own. That's why we are seeking a group of committed volunteers who can work alongside us to plan and execute larger-scale events for our school community. This collaborative effort will enable us to achieve even more for the benefit of our pupils.

The date of the first meeting will be sent out once it has been confirmed. If you would like to get involved, please come along! Please feel free to share with wider family members who you think may be interested too.

### **Arbor**

We kindly ask that parents log into Arbor regularly and ensure all medical, dietary and contact information is up to date. Arbor also shows useful information such as your child's attendance record, available afterschool clubs, upcoming trips and much more.

We are still offering toast at £1 per week, and you must book your child on and pay via Arbor on a Monday morning before 9.00am. The cook checks the Arbor system to gather her toast numbers for the week so if you add your child after 9.00am you will need to advise the office as they will need to update numbers for the cook. We would also like to remind parents that school meals should be paid for at the beginning of the week for the week ahead, if your child does not have a school meal one day the money stays available in your meals account. If you wish to access the wraparound care you will need to book and pay for all children via the Arbor app beforehand to ensure staff are

aware of numbers to expect for both snack requirements and staffing ratios. If you wish to pay using any of the childcare voucher's schemes, please let the office know and we can update your account to allow you to do so. If you need any help accessing Arbor please contact the office and we will be happy to help.

### **Exciting Visit from a Team GB Athlete!**

On Monday 22nd September, we are thrilled to welcome a surprise Team GB athlete to our school! The children will take part in a fun fitness circuit, followed by an inspiring presentation.

To celebrate this special occasion, we invite all children to come dressed in sportswear that represents their favourite sport or athlete. Please make sure their outfit is suitable for physical activity, as they will be joining in with the fitness circuit.

To help us host this event, we kindly ask for a £1 donation.

We look forward to an energetic and inspiring day, and we hope the children are as excited as we are to take part in this fantastic opportunity!

### **Looking Ahead:**

**Here are some important dates for your diaries to help you plan for the next few weeks:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Sept – Y5 & Y6 Meet the Teacher (3:20pm)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Sept – Y3 & Y4 Meet the Teacher (3:20pm)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – GB Athlete school visit
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sept – 1<sup>st</sup> Oct Y5 Bikeability
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct – Y4 Bikeability
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct – Y5 Harvest Festival Church (parents invited)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct – Y4/Y5 Bikeability Learn to Ride

***Please note, these dates are subject to change – please ensure you check them each week for any amendments or additions.***

### **Quotes from Miss Slingsby's #Positivegossip Book this week:**

- Eleanor (Y1) for being kind and caring, asking "how are the new Reception children doing?" 😊 Mrs Hughes
- George (Y4) for being an amazing friend 😊 - Miss McMullen
- Ethan (Y4) for making a fantastic start to our school – Miss McMullen
- ❤️

# Living Our Values

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

**Perseverance**

*"We keep trying and never give up"*



## St Michael with St Thomas Church

Come and join the Sunday services at our beautiful church! See times below. Don't forget Children's Church on the first Sunday of every month.



### Holy Communion Service

⌚ Every Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for 1 hour

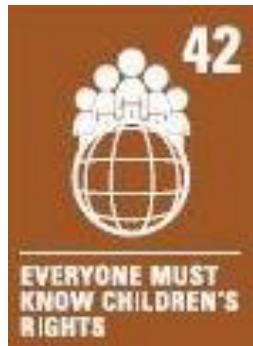
## Let's Talk About Rights!

This week our Article of the week for you to discuss at home is: Article 42: Everyone must know children's rights

What does this mean?

- How do children access this right?
- How can duty bearers help to ensure children have this right?

### Article of the WEEK



# Ready, Respectful, Safe!

**Ready**



We are ready to learn, ready to listen and ready to embrace opportunities.

We respect our friends, our teachers, our visitors and all members of our community.

**Respectful**



**Safe**



We know how we can keep ourselves safe and make sure we do all we can to keep our school family safe.

# Attendance Counts!

#momentsmatter

Whole School Attendance - this year:

93.5%

Whole school attendance - this week:

93.5%

Class attendance winner:

97.3% - Y5

Class Attendance:

Rec - 83.9%

Y1 - 94.8%

Y2 - 93%

Y3 - 97.7%

Y4 - 88.4%

Y5 - 97.3%

Y6 - 90.7%



## Important reminder regarding reporting absences.

Please be reminded that you need to notify school before 9am with the reason for absence for this to be recorded appropriately.

**Please note 'Feeling unwell', 'poorly' or 'under the weather' is not sufficient, more detail is required such as 'has been sick' or 'has a temperature' is required.**

There are lots of ways to notify school of absence. You can call the school number and leave a message on the absence line, you can send a message via Arbor or you can email the school office.

Thank you for your continued support

# *Autumn* **KIDS CHURCH!**

**SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER  
11.00AM**

St Michael with St Thomas Church,  
Ditchfield Road, WA8 8XR

**FREE Breakfast from 10.30am**

*Storytime, games, craft  
and a chance to catch up  
after our Summer break!*



Halton Libraries is hosting a Gaming Together exhibition throughout September at Halton Lea Library.





# Show us your favourite Athlete or Sport

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September come to school  
dress in sports clothes to showcase your  
favourite athlete or sport.

It must not be fancy dress and it must be  
suitable to participate in sporting activities.

On this day we will be raising money for our  
school to showcase our GB Athlete so we ask  
if possible could everybody please bring in a  
£1 donation.

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, we are excited to be welcoming a Great British Athlete into our school. As part of this fantastic opportunity, we are asking if you would give a small donation of £1 for own clothes day. This will go towards your child participating as well as hopefully getting more equipment for our school.

On the day the children will spend up to 10 minutes talking with the Athlete before taking part in the circuit. As each athlete is unique in their abilities, skills and experience, they will talk about their career, the lessons learnt, the hard work needed to reach such a high standard and their resilience in the face of adversity; this is particularly true of our Paralympians and Invictus Games athletes. The athlete may also provide a sporting demonstration of their specialism.

We are really excited to be able to host this event at our school and cannot wait to find out who our athlete is. We hope that you are excited to join us for this event.